

should have a voice, and so I placed the matter before the people's elected representatives in the General Assembly more than two years ago.

Regarding the present clamor for a referendum, let me make this point: I fully recognize that the referendum is an integral part of the legislative process, and I, of course, would do nothing to obstruct it. To say that I would invoke a part of that process, by having the bill introduced in the General Assembly, and at the same time try to block another part of the process, by delaying the signing or by vetoing the bill, is so manifestly absurd and devoid of moral and ethical principles as to deserve no further comment from me.

As a matter of fact, this matter has been the subject of more studies, more analyses, more evaluation and more expert opinion than any other subject during my term as Governor.

In addition to what I have said concerning a parallel span, this bill also authorizes additional crossings of the Bay. I have never opposed a northern crossing and I recognize that a substantial segment of our citizens feels that such a crossing should be constructed without delay. In view of this I have requested the State Roads Commission to study the financial and engineering feasibility of proceeding immediately with a northern crossing. Out of all of this, one thing is clear; whether during my Administration or one that will follow, a bridge will be built across the Bay from Sandy Point to Kent Island. If this necessary project is delayed and the economy of the State suffers as a result, let no one say that the fault lies with this Administration. Let the fault lie where it belongs—with those who for selfish and political reasons are attempting to block this much-needed public improvement at this time.

I was disappointed that the Senate and the House of Delegates could reach no accord on redistricting the State for our eight members of the House of Representatives, and I would be the last person to defend this inaction. But if we are reasonable we will acknowledge that this business of apportioning legislatures and laying out Congressional districts to comply with the "one man, one vote" mandate of the courts has been a tough problem everywhere, and that the legislatures of many other states have been no more successful than was ours.

Aside from these two problems, which admittedly should have been solved, there was much accomplished at the 1966 session. The creation of an Intermediate Court of Appeals, to relieve the present congestion of unsettled court cases, is certainly the most far-reaching